

THE
CRISIS.

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DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

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They that resolve their Liberty to lose,
Heav'n is too just that Freedom to refuse,
But let them have the Slav'ry which they choose.

TO THE KING.

SIR,



HIS Country is now reduced to a situation really alarming, through your weakness, obstinacy, revenge and cruelty. The treachery of Lord Bute, the villziny of Mansfield, and your ingratitude, are perhaps not to be paralleled in the history of this *island*. How can the people of England put any confidenec in you, Sir, who pay no regard to their interest, or how can they be safe under a monarch, who almost every day falsifies his own word, violates the most solemn promises, and breaks the most sacred oaths? Your subjects for a time were willing to believe that your ministers kept from you the real state of public affairs, and that you were ignorant of the grievances they laboured under; they could not be perswaded that you was even acquainted with the violation of their dearest rights, much less concerned with an abandoned set of men in the destruction of that constitution, you

was

was sworn to support and defend. The mask is at last thrown off, and you, sir, are no longer looked upon as the *father*, but as the *tyrant* of your people, ready to sacrifice their lives to your own savage revenge, and to the will of your minions. History too fatally informs us, that the *English* have been frequently driven to dangerous extremes by causes of less moment than those which have shaken the British Empire, during your reign. As you, sir, and your ministers have thought fit to copy the tyranny and despotism of the *Stuarts*; it ought to be now the chief object of your care, to avoid the dreadful catastrophe of one of them, and the ruin of your family. I am persuaded Sir, the English nation will soon proceed beyond remonstrating, unless the present measures of government are speedily altered, and some of your ministers delivered up a sacrifice, to appease the vengeance of a much injured and incensed people.

The crisis is not far distant when the fate of tyranny or the salvation of the constitution must be determined, fourteen years are not elapsed, since the last glorious war, under the conduct of lord Chatham, had humbled *France* and *Spain* to the dust. We had then in our hands sir, sufficient to have ruined them for ever as *naval powers*, sufficient to have reimbursed the expences of a war, great as they were, and to have added an immense revenue to the crown. We were in a condition at that time, to have kept for ever the invaluable conquest of our arms. What then, Sir, do you and those traitors deserve, who frustrated all the mighty toils and achievements of the war, by the vile, crouching, rotten peace of Fontainebleau? A peace which, in so short a period, has inabled our vanquished foes openly to insult and disgrace us in the eyes of the world.

What *private* motives inspired these worst of parricides thus to abandon and betray their country, proof was at one time given, sufficient for conviction; sufficient, Sir, to have made your ministers tremble, and sufficient to have made them suffer, had they not found means to bribe those who were ready with undoubted evidence of their guilt.

The *public* motive for that dark and villainous transaction, was black envy; and an impatience to commence the present arbitrary Scotch system of government, formed by Lord Bute; under which the kingdom now groans, and which has reduced us from the highest pinnacle

of glory and power to the brink of destruction; such has been the grateful return made by you, and your creatures to those brave *Englishmen*, who fought gloriously in defence of their country: and such has been your gratitude to the *whole people* of *England*, who raised you to *power*, that you have wantonly and wickedly destroyed their boasted liberties, reduced them to *beggery*, and are now attempting to bind them in chains; but, Sir, we have yet the means left within our constitution, to save ourselves and destroy all your despotic designs; against the common rights of mankind and the peace of society.

The most successful deluders of mankind have always acted in masquerade; and when the blackest villainies are meant, the most opposite spirit is pretended. Vice acts with security, and often with reputation, under the veil of virtue; as you have done, till this kingdom is now reduced to a state of misery and distress. Hence too, atheists have set up for the greatest piety; and to cover their own real want of it, have burnt those who really had it. The most *miraculous* tyrants have in the midst of oppression, set up for the patrons of liberty; and while their hands like yours were *deep in blood*, impudently adopted the title of clemency!

There are no such mighty talents requisite for government, as some, who pretend to them without *possessing* them, would make us believe: *Honest* affections, Sir, and common qualifications, are sufficient; and the administration has been always best executed, and the public liberty best preserved, near the origin and rise of states, when plain honesty and common-sense *alone* governed public affairs, and mens morals were not corrupted with riches and luxury, nor their understandings perverted by subtleties and distinctions.

You, Sir was never accused of being possessed of extraordinary abilities, but had you made an *honest use* of the little understanding you are blessed with, you would not have heard so many complaints from your people, and they had been happy under their native sovereign.

The people, Sir, have no bias to be knaves; the security of their persons and property is their highest aim. No ambition prompts them; they cannot come to be lords, to possess great titles and therefore

fore desire none; they have no pimp or relation to raise: they have no occasion for dissimulation or intrigue, they can serve no end by faction; nor have they any interest but the general interest: would to God, Sir, that neither you, or your ministers had any other; but alas! the contrary is too fatally true; to gratify private passion, you would bring down public ruin, and to *save* your favourite, destroy the nation.

Consider well, Sir, your past conduct, and be advised in time, when the course of justice is entirely stopt, and the abused and enraged people can have no remedy, either real or imaginary, nor one victim to their fury, they will naturally and necessarily look higher, and who can foresee where their vengeance will end.

There seems to be in many respects, a fatal analogy between you and that unhappy prince *Charles the First* of the house of *Stuart*: you both came to the throne of the British empire, equally beloved, the very idols of the people, whose affections you never could have lost, had you not put your trust in private councils. *Charles* was undoubtedly a man of virtuous inclinations and just principles; and his reign would have been glorious and happy; but unfortunately for him, he found a set of depraved and abandoned ministers, who had been long used to lead their master which way they pleased. You found a set of honest men at the head of affairs, whom you thought proper to *dismiss*; and we have heard a great deal about your virtue and mildness, but we have not as yet experienced either one or the other. The ministers of *Charles*, set up an interest distinct from that of the people, and he fell in with and countenanced all their measures, which after a time brought a civil war on the nation; and he in the end lost his HEAD; if the House of Commons had been at that time, subservient to the designs of him and his ministers, the nation must have been enslaved. Your chosen ministers have likewise set up an interest distinct from that of the people; and you have not only countenanced them in their proceedings, but actually supported them by your authority in the most open and avowed manner, and what is still more fatal to this country, you have in conjunction with them packed a House of Commons, and through their survility, you have given full scope to your revenge, destroyed the property and lives of your subjects, and laid waste one part of the Empire. Whether these lawless and unconstitutional
acts

acts of government, may bring on a catastrophe as fatal to this country as those of *Charles the First*, time only can determine: this however we may safely take upon us to vouch, that without some alteration in your conduct and that of your ministers, we have all the misery to dread that can befall a nation. The laws are no longer the rule and measure of government; they cease to be a terror to public traitors; nor are they a protection for the innocent against oppression, cruelty, and injustice.

In a word, the situation of this country is much more deplorable now than at the last stupendous revolution. The danger of a total subversion of the government, and extinction of the laws and liberties of England, is much greater now from the corrupt subservency of the present House of Commons to your despotic designs, and those of your ministers, than it was before the revolution, from the arbitrary and popish designs of King James. Indeed we have now hardly the shadow of our liberties left, and with them seems to be lost the heretofore invincible and free spirit of Englishmen. However, I still entertain a better opinion of my countrymen, than to believe they will degenerate so far from the virtue of their ancestors, as to resign up all their liberties at the shrine of despotism and passively submit to a state of slavery. I have yet a more generous opinion, of the bravest, and I hope the freest people in the world; I can conceive, they will soon see the necessity of leaving their wives their children and dearest connections, to vindicate their own rights, against the wickedness, treachery and corruption of the three estates of the realm, who should be their protectors; but who are become their known and notorious enemies, who have been for some time endeavouring to destroy, the liberties and constitution of England. I am persuaded the day is not far distant, when we must all stand forth, and bravely attempt a restoration of our rights, or bravely die in the cause of freedom.

We are not only warranted but required to enter into associations, and oaths for the preservation of our liberties and the constitution. The words of magna charta run thus, "That in case the King shall violate any part of it, and shall refuse to rectify what he had done amiss, it shall be lawful for the barons, and the whole people of England to distress him by all the ways they could think on; such

as the seizing on his Castles, Lands, and possessions, provision being only made for the safety of the *persons* of the King and Queen and their children."

I believe there is not in this Kingdom one man, when he seriously reflects (unless some ministerial hireling) who will deny that you have violated the GREAT CHARTER, and the laws of the land. There is often a necessity for speaking the truth, and this is a truth the generality of mankind believe, though they have not resolution enough to declare it openly. It appears to me the grossest absurdity, to suppose that the ministry would act daily in direct opposition to the laws of their country, and the chartered rights of the people; if they were not supported by you; no, it is certain you encourage them, we are sure they act with your consent, if not by your advice; otherwise they had been delivered up to the justice of their country, or at least dismissed from your presence and councils: it is therefore nonsense to throw the odium and guilt of public measures, entirely upon the ministry, when you only appear to be blameable, because it is in your power to prevent them. I hate flattery, and have always been of opinion, that fulsome adulation, and compliments paid to the King in petitions and addresses had a very bad tendency, and were unbecoming a FREE people; it is neither just nor decent to speak of the first magistrate, as the best of kings, as having many excellent qualities, and virtues, as being a tender father of his people; at the same time that he is putting his whole confidence in the worst of ministers, and treating every remonstrance from his people with sovereign contempt. What idea must you have of such encomiums given of *yourself*; from men who speak with the utmost dislike and bitter complaint; against the measures of your government; and in the same address worship you as a divinity. The people have generally been faulty in this particular: the stile of a free people, when approaching the throne should never speak any language inconsistent with this; "Sir, whilst you observe your coronation oath, we shall pride ourselves in our loyalty to you; if you violate that solemn engagement we consider ourselves as absolved from our allegiance; and shall glory in resistance, if we find it necessary for the preservation of our liberties and the constitution."

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